



DIRECTORATE OF
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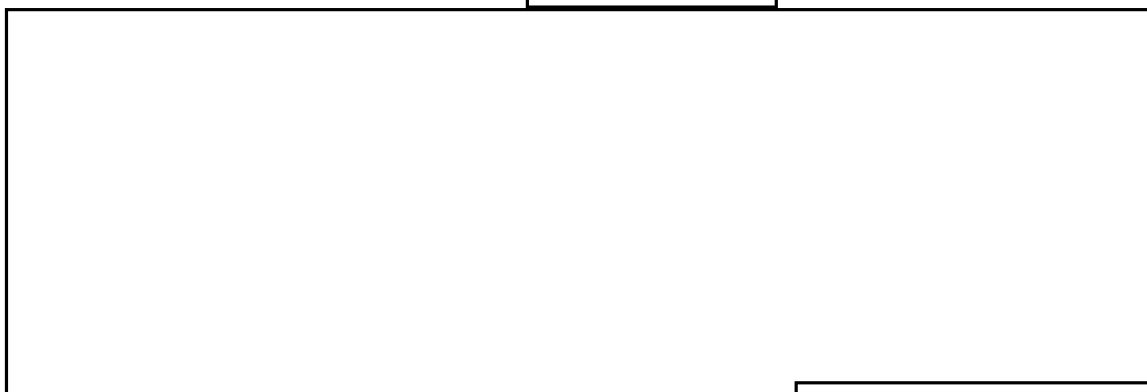


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Panama: National guard commander apparently intends to assume the presidency. [redacted] (Page 6)

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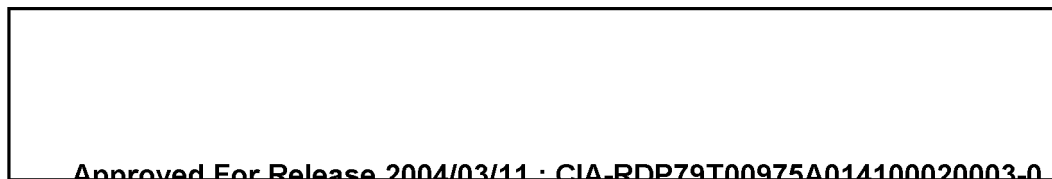
NATO: Strategic arms limitation talks (Page 10)

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Italy: Political crisis (Page 12)



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PANAMA: NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER TORRIJOS APPARENTLY INTENDS TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY AND POSSIBLY RENEGE ON ELECTIONS PROMISED FOR 1970.

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THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT COULD OCCUR THIS WEEK-END. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] GENERAL TORRIJOS, WHO HAS BEEN STRONGMAN OF THE COUNTRY SINCE THE OUSTER OF RIVAL COUP LEADER MARTINEZ IN FEBRUARY, REPORTEDLY WOULD BE SUCCEEDED IN THE TOP GUARD POST BY SANJUR.

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DETAILS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DISCLOSED, BUT IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT TORRIJOS WOULD BE NAMED PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT BY THE CABINET FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATIONS OF FIGUREHEAD JUNTA LEADERS PINILLA AND URRUTIA. URRUTIA HAS BEEN ACTING PRESIDENT IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT PINILLA, WHO SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK EARLY LAST MONTH.

[REDACTED] TORRIJOS AND HIS HIGH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ADVISORS HAVE HARDENED THEIR VIEWS ON THE ADVISABILITY OF HOLDING GENERAL ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR. GROWING DOUBTS ABOUT THE GUARD'S ADEPTNESS IN STAGING A CLEAN ELECTION AND CONCURRENTLY ASSURING ITS GRIP OVER A SUCCESSOR MAY HAVE CONVINCED TORRIJOS THAT FORMALIZING HIS POSITION AND REMAINING IN POWER IS HIS BEST COURSE.

TORRIJOS' TAKEOVER WOULD PROBABLY AROUSE SOME OPPOSITION FROM CIVILIAN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND FURTHER CHANGES IN KEY ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS COULD BE EXPECTED. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

NATO: THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL'S INITIAL ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROJECTED US-SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS TALKS HAS UNDERSCORED THE CONCERN OF SOME OF THE ALLIES THAT SUCH TALKS COULD LEAD TO A DETERIORATION OF THE SECURITY OF WESTERN EUROPE.

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[REDACTED] THIS CONCERN HAS NOT YET BEEN MET ENTIRELY, BUT THE US PRESENTATION AT THE MEETINGS APPEARS TO HAVE REDUCED THE FEARS OF SOME THAT THE US WOULD NOT FULLY CONSULT ITS ALLIES BEFORE NEGOTIATING WITH THE USSR. THE ALLIES ALSO EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN EXAMINING THE US POSITION ON THE TALKS. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS WILL BE HELD ON 8 JULY, BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOME OF THE EUROPEAN ALLIES MAY CONFER INDEPENDENTLY BEFORE THAT.

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[Italy: A political crisis was provoked yesterday with Pietro Nenni's resignation as leader of Italy's Socialist Party. A growing split in Socialist Party ranks, which more conservative party members claimed arose over the question of cooperation with the Communists, apparently led to Nenni's decision to resign. Although he has remained as foreign minister in the government thus far, several right-wing Socialist Party members have reportedly resigned their positions in the cabinet.

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